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ABSTRACT

The world of school has changed dramatically in the last two generations, for many reasons, including cultural and linguistic diversity; great changes in family lifestyles; wide disparities in funding for schools; the prevalence of preschool education; and new educational practices for children with disabilities. Noting that the requirements of preparation for schooling go beyond helping a child adjust to a new set of rules and expectations, this handbook serves as a guide, up-to-date reference, and source of ideas and encouragement for parents of preschool- and primary school-age children. Each of the twelve chapters provides resources, activities, and a large body of information culled from scientific studies, theory, and practical experience. The chapters are: (1) "Why School is So Different Today"; (2) "How Children Learn (and How Parents Can Help)"; (3) "Ten Hallmarks of Children Who Succeed in School"; (4) "Parent Involvement in Children's Education"; (5) "Family Life and Academic Success"; (6) "How to Prepare for 'Big School'"; (7) "Choosing Your Child's School"; (8) "Educational Approaches"; (9) "The Academic Side of School"; (10) "The Language Arts"; (11) "The Social Side of School"; and (12) "Your Unique Child." A list of additional references is included. (JS)

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